

Centor

S A T U R D A Y, APRIL 18. 1772.

*Know while I live, no rich or noble KNAVE,
Shall walk the World in credit to his Grave.*

POPE.

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To the FREEHOLDERS of BOSTON.

MY Fellow Citizens, in my last Address to you, my intentions were to point out the infelicity and misery of this agonizing Town, reduced almost to penury, by the tragic manœuvres of a Band of discontented Vultures : To cure the defects of our own internal police, previous to an opposition of the statutes of the British Parliament. To lessen the weight of enormous taxation and give relief to the distressing cries of all ranks of men. To enter into the ARCANUM of the demands exhibited against this Town and discuss them with freedom and spirit, and prevent future insidious extortions of money. To guard against the combinations of those *Gavandans* * who would destroy and enslave you and your posterity.

* A wild beast in France that destroyed 80 men in a day.

posterity. To inforce these points caution was given to be ware of the machinations of an Albanian Mountebank, lest an undue influence in grants and elections might be made upon the inhabitants. An instance was given of his threats to displace a worthy Citizen * at the then ensuing election. To finish the climax and give a coup d'éclat to the vanity of his soul, he ascended the Rostrum in a late respectable convocation in Faneuil-Hall. Impeded the Moderator in the execution of his office, by the frothy ebullitions of his distempered mind, supporting motions for grants of money in direct contradiction to common sense and the provincial law. It appears by Messrs Fleet's Evening Post the 13th of April instant, one JUSTUS is greatly enraged at the representation given of an Albanian Mountebank, hath vented his petulance, railed with great bitterness, and exhibited a performance destitute of truth, composition, and grammar, absurdly inveighing against his superiors, and winking totally out of sight the requisitions of TULLIUS : † Having substituted scurrility for argument and defiled much paper in representing the knowlege of a medical genius, who some think hath long merited a state phlebotomy. Indeed Justus hath given a single truth in his intervals of lunacy, that Mr. M---n intended his resignation of office. Doth this justify the arrogance of the Albanian DICTATOR, to threaten him in the ensuing election, if he thought proper to assume his office, and like a Bashaw pronounce his fate for the negative voice given in a late affair ? Did not this worthy Citizen lose his election in consequence of the denunciation of the Albanian and his Confederates in iniquity ? Doth not this detestable project, my fellow Citizens, prove an undue influence in anniversary elections ? I lament the weakness of Justus and commiserate the malignity of his heart. Justus proceeds to dictate Tullius, " Keep the word mercenary for your Governor, Commissioners, and the wretches who expect or " enjoy the plunder of their country." What influence hath the Governor or Commissioners in levying or assessing the Town taxes ? It is a matter of great notoriety they never give their voice in town affairs or even attend their convocations, therefore they cannot enhance the town taxation nor " mercenarily" expect any " plunder" therefrom. It is therefore manifest the intention of this confused Writer is to blend the taxation of Great-Britain upon the Colonies and our internal taxation made by

* Mr. M---n.

† See Fleet's Evening Post, March 23, 1772.

by ourselves, to confuse the minds of my worthy Citizens, and make mankind believe the Governor and Commissioners have been the sole instruments of the enormous taxes lately assessed upon this Town. Miserable detestable subterfuge. Disappointed ambition will grasp at a straw. What unbridled insolence doth this "declaimer" discover in treating the supreme Magistrate of this Province with such indignity? The truth is, a set of harpies have involved this Town in misery, and to screen themselves from the imputation of guilt, and shake off the burden, would load the Governor and Commissioners with the infamy of their transactions. How often, my Fellow Citizens have we beheld in life a designing Calumniator attempting to revile conscious virtue. The most dignified characters in this metropolis have not escaped the invenomed asp's rage. KING, Lords, Commons, Governors, Councillors, Judges, Citizens, &c. have been the political victims of the fury of a certain JUNTO, who would make you believe, they themselves are the only virtuous men in this City. Happy, thrice happy the period when this City shall disgorge its impurity. * For the consolation of *Justus*, I now inform him, had his Physical Hero prosecuted his intended voyage to *Carolina*, and joined the late celebrated Insurgent MERRIL, against the crown and dignity of our Lord the KING, to satiate his rankling bosom, he would have suffered a meritorious fate, and his polluted carcase would have manured the fields.

REMEMBER, my Fellow Citizens, that there are no set of mortals more contemptibly little than those who would sacrifice the interest of their native Isle, and after they have banished virtue itself, laugh at it as a mere chimera in other men. Tullius hath a most filial respect for that city which gave him birth, and will ever exert himself for its honor and glory, without hungring for its emoluments, or the dirty expectation of a pecuniary reward. Unappalled by the menaces of a miscreated Band of Fiends and Enemies to this City, will oppose those who seek its destruction. Therefore I beseech you, my beloved Fellow Citizens, not to sully the glory of your invincible integrity brilliantly displayed in the last Town Assembly. Be watchful in future, probe the wound to the bottom, lest a gangrene ensue and it be incurable. Relieve the poor and indigent from their calamities, and shake off the yoke, which galls the neck

* *Hanc feminam foras projecit.* Cicero;

neck of this Town. Be vigilant over the conduct and aspiration of a group of figures, who vainly expect their insignificance will rise into importance, at the expence of the treasure of its inhabitants. I am sensible the small notice taken of Justus will ennoble his vanity and give his fame a lustre until this period never conceived. However in humble confidence, we may rationally expect the bubble will soon burst to the relief of thousands, and those false Patriots appear in their true colors. In vain then will they cry to the rocks and mountains to cover their shame and nakedness.

TULLIUS.